

CHAPTER 6

Retrograde of Airdrop Equipment

INTRODUCTION

Army personnel in a theater of operations must use every available supply source. This is especially true for airdrop equipment. Such equipment is expensive and will likely be in short supply during the early stages of a conflict. Salvage collection points and collection and classification points generally handle serviceable and unserviceable items.

RETROGRADE

The unit receiving airdrop resupply is responsible for the recovery and initial evacuation of airdrop equipment (Figure 6-1, page 6-2). If the situation permits, airdrop equipment is collected from the drop zone. The equipment is then returned to the salvage collection point run by the supply company, FSB, in the BSA. If the situation does not permit recovery, airdrop equipment will be either destroyed or buried to prevent its use by enemy forces. When received at the BSA salvage collection point, items are reported to the DMMC by the FSB and retrograded to the salvage collection point run by the supply and service company, MSB, in the DSA. The supply and service company, as directed by the DMMC after coordination with the corps MMC, will move the airdrop equipment either to a collection and classification point run by the service company in the corps support group or to an airdrop support unit. Under the current system, the AERS company will return serviceable items to the supply system, repair the

reparable items and return them to the supply system, and further retrograde the remaining items. All of these actions will be coordinated through the corps MMC. Under the emerging system, the light airdrop supply company will simply make a quick check to see if the items are serviceable. It will keep serviceable items. Unserviceable items will be further retrograded. All of these actions will be coordinated through the CMMC. The CMMC will then coordinate further retrograde of the items with the supporting TAACOM MMC. Retrograde from the corps will be to either the TAACOM's AERS company or the collection and classification company. The AERS company classifies the airdrop equipment as either usable, reparable, or salvage. Usable items are placed in the ready-for-issue area. Reparable items are repaired and then placed in the ready-for-issue area. Salvage items are turned in to the DRMO. The DLA operates the DRMO in the TAACOM area. All of these actions will be coordinated through the TAACOM MMC. The collection and classification company will dispose of ADE as directed by the TAACOM MMC either by moving it to the AERS company or to DRMO. Depending on the distances involved, the AERS company could send inspectors to classify the airdrop equipment at the collection and classification company. More information on retrograde operations is available in FMs 63-3J, 63-20, 63-21, and 100-16.

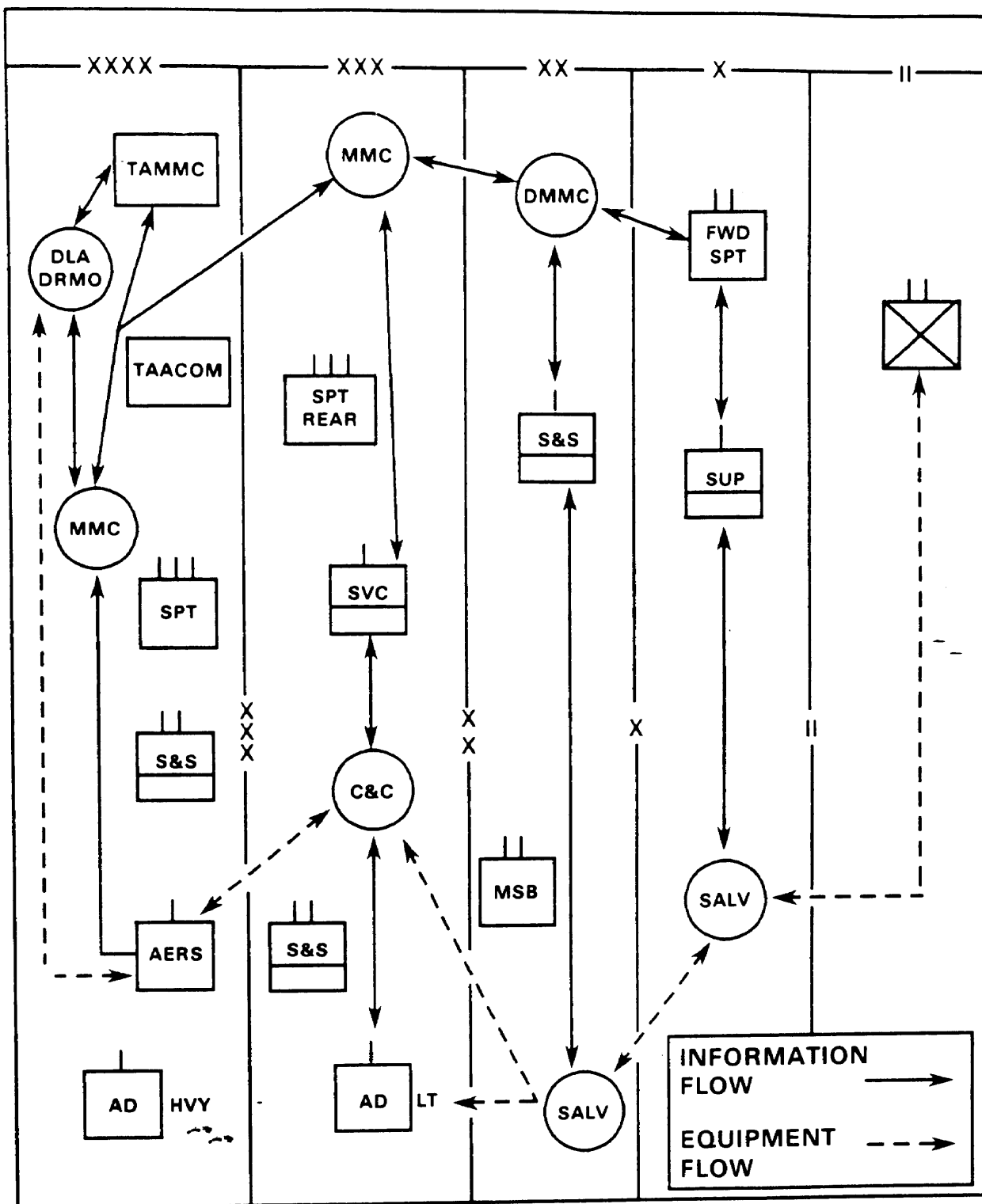


Figure 6-1. Retrograde of airdrop equipment